



Civil Works Budget & Appropriations Process

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Location

NONE PROVIDED

State(s)

IA,IL,MN,MO,WI

Congressional District(s)

IA-1, IA-2, IA-3, IA-4, IL-11, IL-13, IL-14, IL-15, IL-16, IL-17, IL-18, IL-2, IL-3, MN-1, MN-7, MO-6, WI-1, WI-2, WI-3, WI-5, WI-6

Description

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program

Army involvement in works "of a civil nature" goes back almost to the origins of the United States. Over the years, as the nation's needs have changed, so have the Army's Civil Works missions. Those missions today fall in four broad areas: water infrastructure, environmental management and restoration, response to natural and manmade disasters, and engineering and technical services to the Army, DoD and other Federal agencies.

At Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, DC, the Directorate of Civil Works oversees the program. Civil Works projects are located throughout the United States.

Funds for the Civil Works program come from the annual Energy and Water Development Appropriations, not the Defense appropriations. Add to that the cost-sharing funds supplied directly by non-federal sponsors for specific projects, and the total civil program is about \$5 billion a year.

The process for developing Civil Works projects begins when citizens see a need for flood protection, navigation, or other water-related infrastructure and ask Congress for help. Congress will direct the Corps to do a study to see if a project is warranted. Corps studies are usually done in 2 phases: an initial reconnaissance to determine if a feasible solution is likely, then a feasibility study to examine alternatives and select the project that best meets national and local needs. Most feasibility studies are cost-shared with a local sponsor. If the conclusion is positive, before any construction, Congress must authorize the project and then appropriate funds. Most projects are built with a combination of federal funds and contributions by non-federal sponsors. Depending on project purpose, the Corps then either operates and maintains the completed project, or turns it over to local authorities.

Annual Budget Development & Appropriations Process

While many people are familiar with the key events in the annual Civil Works budget and appropriations cycle - the release of the President's budget and the enactment of Congress' appropriations legislation into law - few are as familiar with the year-round budget process

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engaged in by the Corps and other federal agencies.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works funding is a two-year development process that can be generally summarized as a develop-defend-execute program cycle. The Corps budgets and executes its mission on a Fiscal Year basis. The fiscal year begins October 1 and ends September 30 the following year. Using January 2015 (FY15) as a starting point, the schedule for development of the FY17 budget is as follows:

JAN 2015	Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides budget guidance for FY12.
MAR/APR 2015	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters provides FY12 budget limits and program guidance within the Corps based on the OMB and additional ASA(Civil Works) guidance.
MAY/JUL 2015	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers field offices develop FY12 program requirements based on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidance.
JUL 2015	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters reviews the field-developed FY12 requirements.
JUL/AUG 2015	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-developed FY12 budget is worked with the Secretary of the Army.
SEP 2015	The Army's FY12 budget program is submitted for OMB review.
SEP-NOV 2015	OMB reviews with and then tells Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers what its budget will be for Civil Works program planning in FY12. This is referred to as the OMB passback.
DEC-FEB 2015/16	The President's budget for FY12 is finalized and submitted to Congress. It provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the specific budget details needed to plan FY12 Civil Works program execution.
FEB-MAY 2016	Congress conducts appropriations (and, if necessary, authorization) hearings to discuss and ask detailed questions about the President's FY12 budget submission. The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leadership testify before subcommittees to address Congressional concerns about the President's budget for the FY12 Civil Works program.
JUN-SEP 2016	Appropriations bills for FY12 are developed and approved by Congress.
SEP/OCT 2016	President signs the FY12 appropriations legislation into law. The legislation provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with specific Civil Works program execution guidance by funding category and specifically authorized projects and studies.

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**OCT/DEC
2016**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters allocates FY17 funds within the Corps for fiscal year execution.

In the absence of congressional passage of an agency-specific appropriation, Civil Works annual funding is generally included in an all-encompassing "omnibus" bill .

Key legislation that serves as the "baseline" for the Corps' Civil Works program is Congressional passage of the Water Resources Development Act, expected every two years. The WRDA is a comprehensive legislative package that provides for the conservation and development of water and related resources. It authorizes the Secretary of the Army, through the Chief of Engineers, to conduct studies and to construct projects and research the various activities that lead to improvements of rivers and harbors of the United States. The WRDA is strictly an authorizing document; it does not include funding. The funding of WRDA-authorized studies and projects is accomplished separately as part of the annual appropriations process.

Congressional committees and subcommittees that oversee the Corps and normally meet on an annual basis to address Senate and House member concerns about the President's budget and the need for additional Authorizations for the Civil Works program include the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

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